GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1340
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
HEAVY TOLL OF WILD LIFE ON RAILWAY TRACKS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway tracks of North Bengal and the North East on NE Railways has taken a heavy toll of wild life, including Tigers, Bison, Elephants since its upgradation into broadgauge track ;

(b) if so, the number of such animals killed on these tracks since conversion, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such loss of wildlife?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) As per the information received from the State Governments, occasional killings of wild animals have been reported on railway tracks through accidents, particularly in Assam and North Bengal.

(b) Details are at Annexure

(c) The issue of killing of wild animals through railway accidents has been brought to the notice of the Railway Authorities to regulate the speed of trains. Several precautionary measures have also been identified in this regard in consultation with the Railway Authorities. West Bengal Government has conducted awareness prorammes to sensitize the drivers and guards of trains passing trough the forests. Further, based on the instruction from the Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata, the Chief Secretary of West Bengal has written to the Railway Board to check the speed limits of trains passing through such areas.